

Fair and Colder Tonight.
Warmer Tomorrow.

The Washington Times

Sunday Evening
EDITION

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WASHINGTON, SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 25, 1910.

Sixteen Pages

PRICE ONE CENT.

GIVE US MORE PAY BEFORE PENSIONS, PLEA OF CLERKS

Increased Salaries Now
Urged as of Greater Im-
portance Than Retirement.

PRESENT NEEDS FIRST, SAY THE EMPLOYEES

Many Urge That Question Be
Included in The Times
Poll.

Developments in Retirement Poll Situation

Strong sentiment in favor of providing salary increase before passing retirement legislation.

Scores of clerks besiege The Times with requests that Congress be urged to take up salary problem first.

Employees argue that retirement provisions will preclude material increases in salary.

Question to be considered by leading advocates of various retirement plans at conference on Tuesday.

Support for "compromise plan" increased from day to day, and is now vital issue.

Within the last few days a sentiment to delay the agitation for retirement legislation and direct all energies toward obtaining an increase in salaries has developed among the Government employees in Washington.

Numerous letters have been received by The Times, and a large number of employees have personally urged that the question of an increase in salary is of greater importance to a greater number of the workers in the Government service than the retirement plans to protect them in their old age.

"We should consider present needs first," declared an employee in the Treasury Department. "Salaries are altogether too low, and most of us are concerned in having them increased rather than in some scheme to pension us off in the future."

"One of the schemes proposed even contemplates taking from our already scanty wage, so before this or any other plan is put in operation the salaries should be increased."

Vote Urged on Question.

So strong has this sentiment become since The Times has proposed to hold a poll of the Government employees that it appears to many that the question should be submitted to a vote when this newspaper conducts the poll. In fact, the advocates of various plans have suggested that the question be put up to the employees.

"Certainly if the Gillett bill, providing for deductions in salaries, is passed by Congress, a great hardship would be inflicted on the Government employees unless the salaries were increased proportionately," said one employee. "There can be no dodging of the question about salaries. It should be paramount."

In view of the sentiment in favor of an increase in salaries before any retirement plans are adopted, the subject will be taken up at a conference of the leading advocates of the retirement propositions, to be held next Tuesday afternoon. It then will be decided whether or not the question should be submitted to the Government employees on the occasion of The Times' poll.

Ballots to Be Clear.

One of the principal objects of the conference of the several leaders is to put squarely before the employees the plans proposed. The form of the ballot and propositions to be submitted will be outlined in detail, so that

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

WEATHER REPORT.

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FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.

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SUN TABLE.

Sun rises 7.15
Sun sets 4.42

CONDITION OF RIVERS.

HARPER FERRY, W. Va., Dec. 25.—Both rivers clear.

Disasters of Past Week

MONDAY, Dec. 19.—Explosion of gas wrecked power plant of New York Central and Hudson River railroad, killing thirteen persons and injuring 114. Loss estimated at \$1,000,000.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.—Leather warehouse in Philadelphia burned; fourteen persons killed and many injured by falling walls. Loss \$200,000. Conflagration in leather manufacturing district in Cincinnati, Ohio. Three killed, twelve factories burned. Loss \$2,000,000. Explosion in Hulton Colliery, England. Three hundred and forty-one miners were killed and a number injured.

THURSDAY, Dec. 22.—Fire in Nelson Morris packing houses in stockyards of Chicago. Twenty-four firemen and policemen were killed, property loss \$2,000,000. Three persons killed when "owl" train on Pennsylvania railroad hits wrecked freight train at Millstone Junction, N. J.

FRIDAY, Dec. 23.—Fire in theater and business block, Barron street, New Orleans, killing three persons. Loss \$500,000.

SATURDAY, Dec. 24.—Two Pennsylvania railroad trains collided at Nevada, Ohio, killing six persons; six others seriously injured. Eight killed and twenty-five seriously injured in wreck of Scotch express, near Hawes Junction, England. Four men and two women killed by gas fumes, in Kenton, Ohio.

MURDERED BY NEGRO WHILE WIFE WAITS

Former Fireman Hurrying
Home to Distribute Gifts
Has Throat Cut.

STEPPED BETWEEN FIGHTING NEGROES

One Draws Knife Across Throat
After Warning Victim to Move
On—Arrest Made.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—While hurrying home, where his wife was waiting for him to assist in the distribution of gifts from a big Christmas tree, which had been erected in his home for his four children, Bert Hibbs, thirty years old, a former fireman, of 312 South Eighth street, Camden, was murdered this morning when he attempted to interfere between two negroes who were quarreling at Seventh street and Kaighn avenue. The man's head was nearly severed from his body by his assailant, who wielded a keen-edged razor.

Clem Higley, who lives in Lilly row, a negro settlement in South Camden, was arrested while trying to board a ferry boat for Philadelphia, and locked up in the Camden jail charged with the crime.

Hibbs had been spending a half hour with some old comrades at the Kaighn avenue fire house. As he crossed Seventh street he saw two negroes fighting. One man was considerably larger than the other, and liking fair play, Hibbs ordered the larger to stop punishing the little fellow.

The negro declared that it was time for Hibbs to move and to attend to his own business. Words followed, during which the former fireman called the negro a liar. The negro then drew a razor and rushed at the white man.

Much the heavier, he bore Hibbs to the ground and drew the sharp blade across the man's throat. Both negroes then fled before spectators of the fight could interfere.

An ambulance was summoned and the injured man placed aboard. Physicians attempted to sew the wound infected, but Hibbs died before the hospital was reached.

MEXICAN REVOLT CRISIS AT HAND

Armies Mobilizing for Battle
That Will Decide Fate
of Revolution.

NAVARRO'S FORCE IN TIGHT QUARTERS

Railroads in Hands of His Enemies
and Famine Threatens
His Followers.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 25.—The Mexican government will either meet with a terrific setback in the coming week or it will restore the present infected region to federal control.

With Navarro and 3,000 men already scattered through the region where the insurgents are in control, 1,500 men in two trains left Chihuahua Saturday afternoon with orders to join Navarro at Pedernales and assist in putting down the insurrection. Eighty miles from Chihuahua at Malpaso, the pass where Colonel Guzman and his force were ambushed and shot a week ago, the first fighting is expected. This should have commenced today, but there are no wires in operation and as it was four days before reports came into Chihuahua from the last battle fought there it may be that long this time before anything definite is heard.

Navarro is still surrounded by troops of the insurgent army and his men are kept completely on the defensive, but they could hold out for some time if it is declared, although officially admitted his ammunition is low, and subsistence must be had by forage on the country.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

FALL ON PAVEMENT TRAPS A DESERTER

Policeman Aiding Him to
Arise Recognizes His
Features.

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EXPLOSION WRECKS HUGE IRON WORKS

Watchman Injured in Los
Angeles by Blow-Up Following Strike.

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PISTOL AND BOTTLES PLAY LEADING PART IN CHRISTMAS RIOT

Railroad Boarding House
Scene of Battle and Re-
serves Called.

TWO MEN INJURED; TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Party Indulging in Too Much
"Cheer" Rounded Up
for Court.

As a result of a free-for-all fight and small riot in a boarding-house at 1622 Eckington place this morning, which was not quelled until the arrival of the police reserves from the Eighth precinct, James K. Vincent and William E. Rouzee, street railway employees, are in a serious condition in Freedman's Hospital, while two other men, Ullric A. Rouzee and John E. Jenkins, were placed under arrest on a charge of trying concealed weapons.

William Rouzee and Vincent were both badly beaten over the heads with beer bottles and cut with knives.

Riot Call Sent in.

Responding to the riot call, Captain Doyle and the reserves from No. 8 hurried to the house in the patrol wagon. There were about a dozen men in the room occupied by the Rouzee brothers. Beer bottles and other missiles were flying in every direction and some of the men, the police assert, were armed with knives.

The Rouzee brothers make their home at the boarding house, which caters to street railway employees. Vincent and Jenkins called to see them this morning, and there were also a number of other railway employees at the house.

According to the police there was a good deal of liquor consumed by some of the occupants of the house late last night and early this morning.

A "Cordial" Reception.

Jenkins says that when he entered the Rouzee brothers' room this morning he was tendered a cordial reception with a gun and knife. He didn't know whether the weapons were pointed at him as a joke, but the next moment an empty beer bottle came flying toward his head.

After that the trouble began. Others came flying into the room, and in a few minutes there was a battle royal.

So many different versions of the affair were given to the police that Vincent was given to understand that he was charged with disorderly conduct, and William Rouzee on a charge of assault, and a policeman retained at the hospital to watch them.

Vincent is the most seriously hurt, but the doctors said he will probably recover. He is a cripple with only one leg. He received a deep cut on the head, and was also badly bruised on the face.

KIDDIES SING PRAISE OF ST. NICHOLAS GIRL

Happy Children in 2,000
Homes Due to Her and
Her Aides.

In more than 2,000 Washington homes children play happily today because of the visit of Santa Claus and The Times' St. Nicholas Girl.

Many of these homes might have been forgotten by the busy old man of the Yuletide had it not been that the St. Nicholas Girl, in whose care the little ones sent their letters to Santa Claus yesterday, had presented that revered old gentleman with the nature of their wants.

Santa Claus himself and a corps of assistants, including the St. Nicholas Girl and the volunteer committee which undertook to supply Christmas necessities to the children of the city, distributed more than 2,000 bags of toys and good things to eat at the Munsey building yesterday. The distribution began at 9 o'clock and it was well past noon before the last of the line of 2,000 boys and girls had presented their numbers and had received a big bag which was marked by a similar number.

The movement inaugurated by The Times and the St. Nicholas Girl, Miss Selene Armstrong, was a decided success, and every man and woman who had devoted their time and energies toward spreading happiness among those who deserved it left The Times building with light hearts yesterday afternoon.

No more touching sight was witnessed about Washington than that presented early this morning by an explosion of faith in the kindness of a Santa Claus, as they sat in front of the big room on the lower floor of the Munsey building, where were stored the things that go to make children happy.

Widows of the firemen will receive in the future a sum of \$100 to \$150 a year, with an annual amount for each child, and when the child becomes of age there will be about \$2,000 for him.

Fire Victims' Families All to Be Cared For

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FATHER ACCUSES WIFE OF KIDNAPING HIS SON



EDWARD PALMER,
Who Accuses Wife of Kidnaping Son.

LURED FROM HOME IN CAPITAL, HE SAYS

Edward Palmer Files Com-
plaint in Baltimore Against
Vaudeville Actress.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 25.—A kidnaping story, in which a prominent Philadelphia woman is the principal, was related this morning to Marshal Farnam by Edward Palmer, who applied for a warrant for the arrest of his wife, Mabel Palmer, who, he says, is the daughter of the late David R. McClean, a well-known politician of Philadelphia.

The actual kidnaping took place on December 12 in Washington, according to Palmer, while he was living at 530 New York avenue northwest. At the time he was living there with his two sons, Mack, seven years old, and Ritten, twelve years old. Unexpectedly his wife, who has been doing some vaudeville acts in nearby towns, appeared and induced Mack to join her.

She left word with her oldest son that she was going to Philadelphia. On his return Palmer said he sent telegrams to Philadelphia and other cities, but was unable to locate her.

A physical and mental wreck, Palmer says he came to Baltimore and took rooms at 310 North Green street. A few nights ago he attempted suicide, he says, by asphyxiation, but was prevented by his son.

On December 17 Palmer says he learned that his wife had taken a boat here for Old Point Comfort and believes that she is now living there. She is traveling under the name of May Shirley, he told the marshal.

Palmer says that in November, 1908, while he and his wife were in Charlotte, N. C., he found twenty-nine love letters from another man sewed in the lining of her coat. At that time, he said, she jumped through a plate glass and for two weeks she was confined in a sanitarium in great mental distress.

The Palmers have been married fourteen years and had four children, two of them having died.

For many years they have been traveling throughout the country, doing vaudeville turns. Mabel Palmer is well known as a Spanish toe dancer.

RICHMOND COLLEGE DAMAGED BY FIRE

Part of Main Building
Wrecked by Blaze That
Rages Six Hours.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 25.—The main building of Richmond College was badly damaged by fire this morning. The northern end of the building was wrecked. The fire started on the fourth floor and for six hours the firemen had a lively time preventing the spread of the blaze.

The burned portion was used for dormitories. Practically all the students had gone home for the holidays.

Pennsylvania Express Kills Auditor's Son

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JOYOUS YULETIDE SPIRIT SHOWN IN CHURCH AND HOME

Rich and Poor Share Alike
in Festival of
Worship.

MIDNIGHT MASSES LARGELY ATTENDED

Charitable Organizations Distribute
Baskets to Hundreds of
Needy.

Events of Christmas in the Capital

All churches of the city hold special Christmas services today and Christmas spirit pervades Capital.

Spirit of Christmas will again be reflected in sermons and songs in the churches tonight.

Charitable organizations and missions of the District feed hundreds of needy and distribute baskets to the poor.

President Taft listened to an old-fashioned Christmas waits at midnight and wished choir-boys a Merry Christmas.

Two thousand homes are happier today because of visits from Santa Claus and The Times' St. Nicholas Girl.

The benediction of Christ rests upon the Capital of this Christian nation today.

In home and in church His spirit is felt. Children are taught higher faith through faith in childhood's Santa Claus; fathers and mothers rejoice in the opportunity to make others happy; the rich remember the poor and the unfortunate are not ungrateful.

In every church in the city, Catholic and Protestant alike, hymns in His memory were sung today. Ministers related the story that is centuries old and yet which always has some new meaning. Under cloudless skies and in the enjoyment of a day as perfect as that which dawned when the Wise Men saw the Star of Bethlehem in the east, thousands of worshippers, en route to a common gathering place of prayer, thronged the streets of this Christmas city.

A man without a home and without a known friend stood outside of one of Washington's churches today. From within he caught the strains of a Christmas carol he had sung when a boy. The man went in and slipped unnoticed into the church.

He felt anew the spirit of Christmas. He felt kinder toward the world and toward his fellow-men. He thought of him who has celebrated the day as He would have it done.

Observance Began at Midnight.

The real observance of another Christmas began in the Capital last night at midnight when the clear bells of eleven Catholic churches called their thousands to celebrate the midnight mass. Like the humble shepherds of His day on earth, they came, with thankful hearts, and in the true spirit of the approaching Christmas Day.

They came again today, some of them to little mission houses, others to edifices magnificent in their appointments, but all erected in His name. Those who did not go to church gathered in thankful family groups about the fireside, watching the happiness of children who were answering questions as to the Santa Claus who had slipped in and out during the night, despite heavy little eyelids that tried to stay wide open.

Aside from the religious features of the day, which have predominated because the spirit of the Sabbath is a significance in that today is the Sabbath also, the Christmas spirit has evidenced itself in a hundred other ways. It hasn't been much effort today to say "Merry Christmas." It has been just the sort of a Christmas Day that one looks forward to because it is of the ideal kind that one remembers when the world was young for him.

Business Cares Laid Aside.

The head of the house has put business behind him; the tots make merry with noise-making toys; the older boys and girls are at home from school; mother presides like a queen over the reunited family circle, and the neighbors have a way of dropping in and adding to the merriment with cheery greetings.

In 50,000 homes in the Capital today Christmas is being celebrated in this fashion. When the church duties are done and man has thanked his Creator for the meaning of the day, there is a tendency everywhere to gather about the hearth with loved ones and just give way to an old-fashioned observance of the Christmas.

The President of the United States and Mrs. Taft are the central figures in such a celebration. It is a modest, but a most significant, gathering. For Christmas is for those of high and low estate and for all who are not too busy to stop for a moment to think of the day is not restricted to any class or condition of humanity.

Boys Sing For President.

Just before midnight last night President Taft was aroused from his bed by the singing of old-fashioned Christmas waits. The sound of their carol "Adeste"

(Continued on Fourth Page.)